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From July 8 to 20 the weather was very hot and no cases occurred, but from July 20 to 31, 5 new cases, followed by 2 deaths, were reported.

Thus we see the disease began slowly and mildly, as the first 4 cases occurred at intervals and all recovered; later the cases occurred more rapidly and the percentage of death rose rapidly. Then followed twelve days of hot weather with no cases; then 5 cases in eleven days, which terminated suddenly the epidemic with the month of July.

Dr. Torel remarks "the complaints and threats of a people ruined and starved by three months of complete isolation, the considerable damage caused to the Ottoman treasury, always needy, were probably not entirely without influence on the improbable suddenness of this termination."

In studying that epidemic one is struck by the limited number of cases that occurred in proportion to the time the epidemic lasted, and the small tendency of the disease to spread. The disease at Smyrna was evidently of the same mild form that we have seen at Djiddah, Yambo, Port Said, and Alexandria.

In three months there were 22 cases officially reported, with 9 deaths from plague. During the same time typhoid fever played more havoc. So the disease must have been in an attenuated form, and always bubonic, pneumonia appearing only in 2 fatal cases, and then as a complication.

How the infection was carried to Smyrna is not known, but it is very probable that it came from Alexandria by some means and at a time unknown, and this time must probably be put rather far back, although the first official case was last May. For instance, in 1899, the Austrian steamer *Polis Mitylini*, that had not touched at an Egyptian port for three years, but that made Smyrna twice a month, had a case on board, bacteriologically shown at Trieste to be plague.

It was said that fruit coming from Egypt brought the disease, especially as several cases occurred in a house where this fruit was sold; but as quantities of old clothes of all kinds are collected at Port Said and Alexandria, to be sent all over the Levant, it would seem that this could furnish a much more probable means of propagation.

The measures taken were disinfection, burning of infected houses, and isolation of patients until twelve days after recovery. They were treated by Yersin's serum. Dr. Torel considers that plague is less to be feared than almost any of the infectious diseases, especially since the important advances made of late in the prophylaxis and treatment of the affection; and on this account he considers the regulations of the conference of Venice of 1897 antiquated, and that the times require a new conference of the powers to arrange other rules.

GERMANY.

Treatment of rabies in Berlin—The Pasteur method and muzzling of dogs.

BERLIN, GERMANY, April 6, 1901.

SIR: I have the honor to report briefly on the methods of treatment of rabies and the results as conducted at the institute for infectious diseases in Berlin. This department of the institute was opened in July, 1898, on the recommendation of Prof. Robert Koch, and the number of cases requiring treatment since that time has proved the wisdom of his advice. Between July 18, the time of the opening of this department, and September 31 of the same year, 36 patients applied for treatment. The following table shows that during the year 1896 there was a marked increase in the number of cases occurring in Prussia, which has continued, as shown in the last report of 1899. The same table also shows how the mortality decreased in the year 1899 after treatment was begun in the institute:

Year.	Cases.	Deaths.	Mortality.	Year.	Cases.	Deaths.	Mortality.
			<i>Per cent.</i>				<i>Per cent.</i>
1891	78	4	5.13	1897	111	5	3.11
1892	72	4	5.56	1898	263	9	3.42
1893	60	4	6.67	1899	287	3	1.05
1894	92	2	2.17				
1895	66	2	3.03	Total	1,207	37
1896	128	4	3.13				

During the year 1900, 384 patients were treated at the institute with a mortality of 0.27 per cent. The percentage of mortality since the founding of the institute in 1898 is 0.3 per cent.

Between the years 1891 and 1899 there occurred 1,207 cases bitten by animals with rabies or suspicious of rabies with 37 deaths—that is, 3.07 per cent. On an average about 4 lives were sacrificed annually on account of this disease. Of the 287 cases occurring in 1899 it is of interest to note that 277 (96.52 per cent) of them occurred in the region of Prussia east of the river Elbe—that is, near the Austrian and Russian boundaries. The infected animals wander over into Prussian territory and there find their victims. There can be no hope of Germany getting rid of rabies till Austria and Russia take the same measures of prevention and eradication as Germany has done. Here the dog or other animal is at once killed on the appearance of the first symptoms, and the patient, as a rule, receives treatment at the institute for infectious diseases in Berlin. Germany has rid herself of smallpox by compulsory vaccination, and is able to eradicate rabies from her territory if her neighbors would take the same measures of prevention as she has done. In Berlin proper no case of rabies has developed since 1873, when a law was passed requiring compulsory muzzling of all dogs during the *entire* year. The experience of the medical authorities in Berlin is that the decrease of danger during the winter months is not sufficient to cause the law to be relaxed during those months. Professor Beck, who is directly in charge of the treatment of the cases at the institute, informed me that in his opinion the season of the year had no influence on the occurrence of rabies among animals, and that in his experience January furnishes almost as many cases as August.

The slight increase in the number of cases occurring in summer he attributes to an increase in the opportunity occasioned by more frequent and intimate association of men and animals during the warm season.

The treatment as carried on at this institute is the same as conducted at the Pasteur Institute in Paris, with only slight modifications. I shall describe the method only briefly for the treatment is now generally understood.

The virus is prepared by inoculating rabbits subdurally with virus. At the end of the eighth day of the disease the rabbit is killed and the spinal cord secured under the strictest aseptic precautions. A small piece is always placed in bouillon to test its sterility in case the animal should be infected with tubercule bacilli or other dangerous organisms. Then the spinal marrow is suspended by strings in closed jars containing potassium hydroxide for the purpose of drying. The longer it is allowed to remain in the desiccating jar at a temperature (20° to 23° C.) the less virulent becomes the marrow. Pasteur considered that after fourteen days drying the marrow became avirulent. Treatment as a rule begins with the attenuated virus and increasing its virulence till the termination of the treatment which continues for nineteen to twenty-one days, depending on the severity of the case. The head cases are always considered the most serious, and bites occurring under protected clothing are the least serious. A piece of the spinal cord 5 cm. in length is emulsified in a mortar, and from this 2 cm. is administered hypodermically. As a rule, 1 dose is given daily, though where it is urgent to get the patient immunized as soon as possible, it is administered twice daily.

Through the courtesy of Professor Koch, and his associate, Professor Beck, I was permitted to see the method of treatment at the institute.

Respectfully,

JOSEPH B. GREENE,

Passed Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,

U. S. Marine-Hospital Service

HONDURAS.

Report from La Ceiba—Fruit port.

LA CEIBA, HONDURAS, *April 9, 1901.*

SIR: I have the honor to make my report for the week ended April 6, 1901. Five vessels cleared from this port for the United States: March 31, steamship *Ely*, Corning; 20 crew; New Orleans. April 1, steamship *Dudley*, Andersen; 18 crew; Mobile. April 3, steamship *Sunbeam*, Thompson; 18 crew; New Orleans. April 4, steamship *Usk*, Hurry; 20 crew; New Orleans. April 5, steamship *Sunniva*, Johanne- sen; 14 crew; Mobile.

I have made a careful inspection of La Ceiba and find the health of the port excellent, there being very little sickness of any kind at present. The sanitary condition, while not perfect, is above the average of tropical ports, and under existing conditions could hardly be improved. I have been unable to visit all of the subports, but those that I have I find healthy and in fair sanitary condition.

I inclose copies of certificates issued to vessels during the week.

Respectfully,

R. H. PETERS,

Acting Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,

U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

INDIA.

Plague, smallpox, and cholera in Bombay from June 7, 1900, to March 5, 1901.

BOMBAY, INDIA, *March 12, 1901.*

SIR: In continuation of my health report dated June 7, 1900, I submit the following details, bringing same up to present time, March 5, 1901.

Smallpox had been epidemic in March 1900, the weekly mortality reaching 267 in week ended March 6, 1900. It gradually declined to a few deaths per week in June.

Cholera seemed to have been increased by the influx into the city of famine sufferers. It became epidemic in June and ran its course in the following three months, reached the climax in August, when, during week ended August 21, 1900, it caused 764 deaths.

We are now in our fifth season of plague. During the hot months it generally drops to as low as 50 per week in the city, as was the case during the first week in the month of August. On the approach of the cool weather it rapidly increases and reaches its climax in the winter months. The largest death rate was during week ended March 5, 1901. This is substantially its history for the last five years.